

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A piston ring for use with a piston made of an aluminum alloy in an internal combustion engine, comprising

a coating film comprising a heat-resistant resin binder material and a solid lubricant dispersed therein on at least one side surface,

said heat-resistant resin binder material comprising at least one of a polyamideimide-silicon dioxide hybrid material and a polyimide-silicon dioxide hybrid material,

wherein said solid lubricant comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide, boron nitride, graphite, polytetrafluoroethylene resins and tetrafluoroethylene-perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether copolymer resins, and

said solid lubricant has an average particle size of 0.1 μm to 20 μm ,

wherein the content of said solid lubricant in the entire coating is 5 to 80% by mass.

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) A piston ring for use with a piston made of an aluminum alloy in an internal combustion engine, comprising a coating film comprising a heat-resistant resin binder material and a solid lubricant dispersed therein on at least one side surface, said heat-resistant resin binder material comprising at least one of a polyamideimide-silicon dioxide hybrid material and a polyimide-silicon dioxide hybrid material,

wherein said solid lubricant comprises an inorganic compound, an inorganic simple substance or a fluororesin, and has an average particle size of 0.1 μm to 20 μm ,

wherein said piston ring comprises a nitrided layer formed on a surface of a substrate thereof, said nitrided layer having a thickness of 3 μm to 120 μm .

Claims 6-7 (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The piston ring according to claim 2 1, wherein said piston ring comprises a nitrided layer formed on a surface of a substrate thereof, said nitrided layer having a thickness of 3 μm to 120 μm .

Claims 9-18 (Cancelled)